

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein depressions are embossed into the band-shaped support material in order to form a channel suitable for capillary liquid transport.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the depressions are embossed transversely with respect to a direction of advance of the band-shaped support material.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein, on both sides of the depressions, individual puncturing/measuring disposable bodies are separated in sections from the band-shaped support material along virtual separating lines.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the virtual separating lines are chosen in accordance with a predeterminable, selectable division.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the depressions in the band-shaped support material are designed with a rounding at a base of the depression.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the depressions in the band-shaped support material are designed with a depression base which has a triangular contour.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the forming step includes the step of forming recesses that define the puncturing points on one face of the band-shaped support material, the recesses being punched out or cut out from the band-shaped

support material, with first and second edges being formed.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the recesses on the first face of the band-shaped support material are produced so as to be symmetrical with respect to the separating lines.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second edges of the recesses defining the puncturing points are ground.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the puncturing points are provided with a soft plastic cover covering them.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein a coating covering the depressions and material containing the detection element are applied to the band-shaped support material in one work step.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein a coating covering the depressions and a material containing the detection element are applied to the band-shaped support material one after the other.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein individual puncturing/measuring disposable bodies are separated singly or in groups from the band-shaped support material transversely with respect to a direction of advance along the separating lines.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, in the case of individual puncturing/measuring disposable bodies being separated from the band-shaped support material in groups along the separating lines, perforations are formed to make handling easier.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the depression base of the depressions is provided with a hydrophilic coating which improves the wetting behavior

of a liquid reservoir.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein a material containing the detection element is applied to the band-shaped support material near the puncturing points.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for producing combined puncturing and measuring devices for detection of an analyte in liquid, including a support and a detection element, the method comprising the following method steps:

forming puncturing points on a band-shaped support material,
sealing the puncturing points by embedding each point in a soft plastic cover such that each surface of the puncture points is in contact with the soft plastic cover,
sterilizing the sealed puncturing points and the band-shaped support material such that the embedding of the puncture points in the soft plastic cover provides for maintaining permanent pre-use sterility of the puncture points, and
applying a detection element to the sterilized band-shaped support material.

19. (Currently Amended) A combined puncturing and measuring device for detection of an analyte in liquid, produced ~~in particular~~ according to claim ~~21~~ 18, wherein ~~the~~ individual puncturing/measuring disposable bodies have a puncturing point which is provided with a soft plastic cover and comprise a detection element which is applied to the individual puncturing/measuring disposable body after the latter has been sterilized and/or sealed.

20. (Previously Presented) The combined puncturing and measuring device according to claim 19, wherein the detection element is applied to a channel which has been embossed as a depression in the individual puncturing/measuring disposable body and which is suitable for capillary liquid transport.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of separating individual puncturing/measuring disposable bodies from the band-shaped support material.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of sterilizing includes sterilizing the sealed puncturing points.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the step of applying includes applying a detection element to the band-shaped material having sealed and sterilized puncturing points.

24-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further including the step of obtaining a reel of band-shaped support material, wherein the forming step includes recesses being punched out or cut out from the reel of band-shaped support material.

29. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the soft plastic cover is sized and shaped such that when the cover receives puncturing points therein, it extends between adjacent puncturing points, and the step of sealing the puncturing points by embedding each point in a soft plastic cover further includes the step of embedding the puncturing points in a continuous soft plastic cover that receives at least two of the plurality of puncturing points therein.

30. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the soft plastic cover is a piece of homogenous composition sized and shaped to receive a plurality of puncturing points therein such that the step of sealing the puncturing points by embedding each point in a soft plastic cover results in the soft plastic cover having at least two puncturing points embedded therein.